

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 271206
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INSE-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 FBIE-00
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:TMRECKNAGEL:CML
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-----105822 121317Z /53

P 120119Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: ASYLUM REQUESTS FROM IRANIAN STUDENTS

1. DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY PREPARING ADVISORY OPINIONS FOR
INS ON ASYLUM APPLICATIONS OF SEVERAL IRANIAN STUDENTS,
MEMBERS CONFEDERATION IRANIAN STUDENTS ABROAD. ALL OF
THEM WERE AMONG GROUP OF FORTY WHO PARTICIPATED IN IN-
VADING AND DAMAGING IRANIAN CONSULATE SAN FRANCISCO
DURING ANTI-SHAH DEMONSTRATION IN JUNE 1970. ALL WERE
TRIED UNDER CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE AND SENTENCED TO 35
DAYS PLUS THREE YEARS' PROBATION. THEIR NAMES WERE SUB-
SEQUENTLY RELEASED BY SAVAK TO THE IRANIAN PRESS WHICH
PUBLISHED THEM IN JANUARY 1971 IN LIST OF "NINETY-THREE
STUDENTS INVOLVED IN ANTI-STATE ACTIVITIES ABROAD". NONE
OF THEM HAVE ENGAGED IN ANY PROTEST OR OTHER OPPOSITION
ACTIVITY SINCE 1971. ALL CLAIM THEY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO
PERSECUTION FOR THEIR OPPOSITION POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND
OPINION SHOULD THEY RETURN TO IRAN.

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2. REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON VALIDITY THEIR CLAIM. WE
RECOGNIZE THEY MAY FACE PROSECUTION FOR WILFUL DAMAGING
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT PROPERTY. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION IS ANY
TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT IN THEIR CASE LIKELY TO BE EXCESSIVE-
LY HARSH AND HENCE PERSECUTION RATHER THAN PROSECUTION?

ARE THEY LIKELY TO FACE OTHER DIFFICULTIES?

3. IN VIEW POSSIBILITY FUTURE ASYLUM REQUESTS FROM
OTHER IRANIAN STUDENTS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-
SHAH DEMONSTRATIONS WHILE IN UNITED STATES, ANY GENERAL
GUIDANCE AND COMMENT EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE WOULD BE MOST
HELPFUL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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